

Kachemak Drive Path Committee
Minutes for Thursday, April 21, 2011

Meeting called to order 5:35

Present: Dave Clemens, Dave Brann, Ingrid Harrauld, Bumpo Bremicker, Lynn Burton, Beth Cumming, Joe Litchfield

Approval of the agenda:

Discussion of goal statement added

Beth and Dave report on efforts to establish 26 ft. tide line and to flag draft version of first part of trail

Kevin Walker added to visitor list

Agenda approved

Minutes approved

Visitors: Kevin Walker and Dave Clemens provided a handout of information related to the width of existing road and shoulders. (A copy to be included with the minutes) Kevin thinks paving 3-6 in. would be a help. He said some of the shoulder sections were very narrow, other areas had plenty of room. He felt there were lots of things that could be done to make a paved shoulder bike lane feasible.

Lots of general discussion about his comments followed, especially how much he thought was already wide enough for additional paving and how much would have to be added to in order to pave a wider lane.

It was agreed that the next meeting was scheduled for May 11 at 5:53. Dave said he would invite Joslyn Biloon from AKDOT. Information in the packet included correspondence between Dave and Ms. Biloon as well as Jennifer Witt from DOT. Dave presented a handout of correspondence in chronological order which made it easier to follow. Dave apologized for not having the packet in not lined out more clearly.

Pending Business:

It was noted that just because some progress was being made on the pedestrian path from the Spit Trail to the airport beach access road that the committee is still working on both options, the widened/paved shoulders and the beginning section. More discussion followed relate to the National Parks Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program. Dave related his discussions at the Trail Rondo with Lisa Holzapfel, Program Manager. She encouraged the committee to apply for assistance, two years of technical assistance at no cost to the city.

Ingrid proposed a resolution that we apply to the National Parks /service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program for their help. Agreed unanimous. The resolution will go to the Homer Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission for their approval and then to the city council or city manager if necessary. It was noted that no money was involved in applying for the program.

There was a discussion on funding options. Dave B. suggested it was too early to consider funding as the Committee still didn't know exactly what we might be looking

at for trail options. It was noted there is money in the HART Funds if we needed to request a small amount to fund surveying or some other item in order to keep moving forward. Dave noted that he learned at the Trail Rony that some funds are disappearing but that other funds will be come available. The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program will help identify those funds.

For clarity, it was noted that the portion of the trail actively being worked on is the portion from the spit to the airport beach access road.

****Beth** felt our initial goal statement had changed slightly and offered additional wording that included aesthetically pleasing and environmentally friendly. The exact wording including the changes follows:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the suggested changes. Unanimous approval.

Beth and Dave B. gave a combined report on “The Beginning” portion of the trail, i.e., from the Spit Trail to the Airport access road. Beth and Lynn have established the 22.4 ft tide line and staked it - observed the highest in a series of high tides, followed the high water mark. Beth had previously done this at 2:30 a.m. Garry Betly working for Seabright Surveying and Dave B. established the 26 ft. level using surveying equipment. That level is marked with survey stakes and a spike in the ground with flagging on it. Dave reported he flagged a proposed route with green flagging. He noted this was just a proposed route and the final alignment would likely move up or down slope in places. Carey Meyers wants to see and or walk it before permission is given to brush out a sight line and perhaps to cut out deadfall crossing the proposed route. Beth will follow up on this. Beth reported Jeff Middleton wasn’t able to give a fill amount estimate without knowing the 26 ft mark at his first visit. Now that the 26 ft mark is established Beth will contact him again.

The Next ½ Mile: Lynn suggests that the next section, from the Airport Beach Access Road to the Bay Club and nearby boat yard follow the already cleared sewer line easement. The trail would cross the NERRS property and Airport Leasing property. Beth has contacted Airport Leasing and made an appointment to walk it with their representative. Maybe in mid-summer, might cost \$150.00.

New Business: Discussion on utilizing the recycled plastic trail materials from the Beluga Slough Trail renovation project. It was noted that it was being removed because it didn’t work as intended. Some felt it was worth a try in some portions of the trail if we could get it.

As per a discussion Dave had with the City Manager it was suggested the Committee send a resolution to the City Council seeking support for the on-going development of the Kachemak Drive Path. In a statement to the council at Commission Report time, it should be noted the proposed path is included in the Homer Non-Motorized Trails Plan and has been on the City of Homer’s Capital Improvement List for a number of years. It would be separated in some areas utilizing existing easements, i.e. sewer, water and powerline while also realizing easements don’t allow for trails, property owners would have to give their permission. The trail is proposed to be a compacted gravel or dirt

trail, not paved. A second proposal is to narrow existing travel lanes by six inches and pave an additional 6-18 inches outside the fog line in order to make a paved bike lane of approx. 2-3 ft.

There was a request presented to organize work party to brush out the proposed trail once Carey Meyer has given his approval. It as agreed that this could be a fun project.

Meeting Dates:

Kachemak Dr. Path Comm. Mtg. May 11 at 5:30

Parks and Recreation Commission Mtg. May19 at 5:30

*Requested, Kachemak Dr. Path Comm. Mtg. May 26

In comments of the Committee, Dave Brann gave an overview of a proposed "Water Trail" to go from the area of the Pier 1 Theater and the proposed Wooden Boat Society facility (a water trailhead) around the bay to Seldovia. This trail would be modeled after hundred of other water trails established around the country since 1988 when the first one, The Maine Island Trail was developed. The initial concept is to have a majority of the landing sites be on State Park Property with the option of utilizing private landing sites if the owners are interested. Dave would like to submit an application to the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program. Lisa Holzapfel, Program Manager really liked the idea and said new funds may be available that would work for this trail.

Dave will have both applications available for review at the next Commission meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Dave Brann